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Letter dated 27 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and with reference to the most recent open meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East held on 24 January 2012, I should like to draw attention to the following:

Certain parties in the Security Council continue to force it to consider internal developments in Syria on the basis of unfounded pretexts that are unrelated to the Security Council's role and its responsibility for maintaining international peace and security under the Charter. They simply want to turn the Security Council into a tool for implementing their interventionist plans, which are completely alien to the spirit, principles and purposes of the United Nations. Over the past 10 months, those parties have assiduously sought to forcibly introduce the events in Syria into the Security Council's discussions under the item on the situation in the Middle East. As everyone is aware, that item has traditionally been reserved for considering the implementation of United Nations resolutions, including those of the Security Council, on ending Israeli occupation of Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan, in accordance with the borders of 4 June 1967, and halting Israel's violation of international humanitarian law, human rights law and the other relevant international instruments, with a view to achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the region. In that connection, I should like to make the following points:

1. The Syrian Arab Republic rejects this irrational, politically motivated campaign and the frantic, futile efforts aimed at subverting the Syrian Government and casting doubt on its legitimacy, smearing the Syrian Arab Republic, its people and its leadership, and undermining the important role that Syria plays at the Arab, regional and international level. Syria condemns in the strongest terms the violation by certain delegations of diplomatic decorum in the Security Council chamber, their blatant interference in the affairs of a sovereign State that is a founding Member of the United Nations and their attempts to undermine a symbol of its sovereignty, namely, its President. Such irresponsible conduct sets a dangerous precedent with regard to the norms of decorum in the Organization. It furthermore constitutes a reckless call to violence and serves as a cover for the terrorist acts being committed by armed groups in Syria aimed at destabilizing our country and the region. Moreover, such conduct is a blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and prevailing diplomatic norms.

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2. The delegations of the United States of America, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Guatemala, Japan, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the European Union all cited the resolutions of the League of Arab States concerning the events in Syria. In that connection, we would like to note that Syria has proven that it has complied fully and strictly with the Protocol concerning the observers and the Arab plan of action for resolving the Syrian crisis. There is no longer any armed presence in the streets, detainees have been released and Arab and foreign media organizations have entered the country. The Syrian authorities have not resorted to any form of violence and have exercised maximum self-restraint, a policy that has spurred armed groups to commit further attacks against State institutions and kill more civilians and members of the security forces and the military. All of this took place in full view of the members of the League of Arab States Observer Mission to Syria, who have themselves verified the events and conveyed them faithfully and objectively in their report. We brought the findings of that report to your attention in our letter dated 25 January 2012, which will be issued as document S/2012/63. As for the most recent so-called Arab resolution, which was drafted in Washington and other Western capitals, it is nothing more than an attempt to avoid acknowledging the success of the Arab observers and to disregard their report because it does not accord with the plans of certain Gulf Arab States, which have, from the outset, sought to ensure the failure of the Observer Mission in order to justify international intervention. Syria therefore rejects the resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level concerning Syria adopted outside the framework of the Arab plan of action and the Protocol concluded with the League. Those resolutions violate its national sovereignty and are a blatant attempt to interfere in its internal affairs. They also constitute a flagrant violation of the purposes of the League and chapter eight of its Charter. Syria affirms its rejection of the League's most recent resolution, which was adopted as part of the overt conspiracy against Syria that is being directed by Gulf agents. The Council of the League at the ministerial level should shoulder its responsibility to stop the flow of funds and arms to terrorist groups that are killing innocent Syrian citizens and attacking the institutions and infrastructure of the Syrian State. It should furthermore strive to stop the misleading media campaign that has resulted in the death or injury of innocent Syrian citizens. Instead, we hear individuals making inflammatory statements, thus pointing to their involvement in the plot to undermine the security of the Syrian people by inviting foreign intervention in the country's affairs. The resolution deliberately overlooks Syria's efforts to implement the comprehensive reform plan announced by President Bashar Al-Assad. It should be noted that many of the Arab States that are leading the campaign of aggression against Syria do not have such a plan in place.

3. In the speech he delivered on Tuesday, 10 January 2012, President Al-Assad recalled several important initiatives that, taken together, constitute a plan for Syria's future. Among those initiatives are several new laws that were adopted as part of the reform process and which entered into force recently. A new Constitution was adopted and will soon be put to a referendum. This new Constitution stipulates, inter alia, that power is derived from the people and provides for a multiparty political system. Parliamentary elections will be held under the new Constitution and a new, expanded Government comprising politicians and technocrats representing all sectors of Syrian society will be formed. The President also called for the continuation of the inclusive national dialogue and the implementation of

various reforms aimed at involving youth and increasing their role in Syria's advancement.

4. The fact that the delegations to which I referred earlier have ignored the substance of several letters from the Syrian Government addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council demonstrates that, rather than helping the Syrian people to achieve reform, they intend to use the capabilities of certain Arab States in order to finance terrorism, with a view to killing Syrian citizens and destroying the Syrian people's political, economic and social achievements.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council on an urgent basis.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the
Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations